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4-14-04 \$RCE  
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PTO/SB/30 (10/01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provided for  
continued examination of a utility or plant application  
filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/823,878
Filing Date	March 30, 2001
First Named Inventor	Takao TAKAHASHI
Group Art Unit	2615
Examiner Name	Huy Thanh Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number	450100-4438.2

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8  
1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

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1. Submission required under CFR 1.114.

- a. ☒ Previously submitted
- i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on February 5, 2004  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Other Preliminary Amendment

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2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of  
suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayments, to  
**Deposit Account No. 50-0320.**
- b. ☒ Checks in the amount of **\$770.00 and \$110.00** are enclosed for the following:
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Dennis M. Smid	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34, 930
Signature		Date	April 2, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as express mail in an envelope addressed to:  
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the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Charles Jackson	Date	April 2, 2004
Signature		Date	April 2, 2004
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